Remarks/Arguments:

Initially, the applicants would like to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended to Kerry S. Culpepper, Esq. during the in-person interview of 27 October 2010, during which the merits of the outstanding office action were discussed. The present remarks and amendments reflect the discussion during the interview. Accordingly, the present submission can be considered the substance of the interview.

Claims 1-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 20-32 are presented for examination. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Canceled claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka in view of Proehl and further in view IrfanView. Applicants will discuss some of the differences between the limitations of new claims 20-32 and these references.

Claim 20 recites *inter alia* that: (1) the hierarchical structure of the menu information provides parent menu information indicating a first one or more play list files and child menu information of the parent menu indicating a second one or more play list files, the child menu information being accessible via the parent menu information; and (2) the display unit displays the parent menu information initially so that the first one or more play list files can be directly selected via the initial display, and displays the child menu information subsequently upon being selected via the parent menu information so that the second one or more play list files can be directly selected via the subsequent display. For example, as shown in Fig. 4, in a first menu screen play list file 1 can be directly selected, or the user can select to move to the N-th menu screen (child menu information). An example of the N-th menu screen (child menu information) is shown in Fig. 5.

Nonaka merely describes files arranged according to certain genre. However, Nonaka fails to teach or suggest a display unit which displays the parent menu information initially so that the first one or more play list files can be directly selected via the initial display, and displays the child menu information subsequently upon being selected via the parent menu information so that the second one or more play list files can be directly selected via the subsequent display. IrfanView also fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Proehl describes various genres 455 such as rock being displayed in a first screen. After choosing a genre, CDs related to the chosen genre are displayed at a subsequent screen. Finally, upon choosing a CD, songs associated with that CD are displayed on a final screen (See Figs.4-6).

However, the play lists (CD) do not appear to be accessible until the final screen (See Fig. 6). That is, Proehl fails to teach or suggest that the first one or more play list files can be *directly selected via the initial display*. Accordingly, new claim 20 should be in condition for allowance.

New claim 21 recites features associated with the novel embodiment described, for example, on pg. 17, lines 22-25 in which the parent menu information includes identifications for the first one or more play list files so that the first one or more play list files can be selected directly via the parent menu information, and the child menu information includes identifications for the second one or more play list files so that the second one or more play list files can be selected directly via the child menu information.

During the interview, in response to an argument that Proehl fails to teach or suggest (1) the hierarchical structure of the menu information provides parent menu information indicating a first one or more play list files and child menu information of the parent menu indicating a second one or more play list files, the child menu information being accessible via the parent menu information, the examiner contended that, in Proehl, a particular genre and all the CDs or virtual CDs associated with the genre could be considered a parent menu information, and that that one of the CDs or virtual CDs could be considered a child menu information. However, in Proehl, assuming *arguendo* that the genre itself is a parent menu, the genre does not include identifications for the first one or more play list files so that the first one or more play list files can be selected directly via the parent menu information as called for in claim 21. Rather, in Proehl, as discussed above, a first screen includes all of the virtual or real CDs associated with a genre, and a subsequent screen shows songs associated with a CD. Thus, a user must continue to subsequent screens in order to access the play list.

Accordingly, Proehl fails to teach or suggest the parent menu information includes identifications for the first one or more play list files so that the first one or more play list files can be selected directly via the parent menu information. Nonaka and IrfanView also fail to teach or suggest this limitation. Thus, new claim 21 should be in condition for

allowance.

Claim 22 recites a recording apparatus including *inter alia* a recording unit configured to record in a recording medium a menu file which includes a plurality of menu information which have a hierarchical structure; (1) wherein the hierarchical structure of the menu information provides parent menu information indicating a first one or more play list files and child menu information of the parent menu indicating a second one or more play list files, the child menu information being accessible via the parent menu information, (2) wherein the parent menu information includes identifications for the first one or more play list files so that the first one or more play list files are accessible directly via the parent menu information, the child menu information includes identifications for the second one or more play list files so that the second one or more play list files are accessible directly via the child menu information.

As discussed above with respect to claim 21, Nonaka, Proehl and Irfanview fail to teach or suggest that the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are accessible directly at a level of the parent menu information. Accordingly, new claim 22 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 23 recites a reproducing apparatus including *inter alia* a reading unit configured to (1) read a menu file which includes a plurality of menu information which have a hierarchical structure, wherein the hierarchical structure of the menu information provides a parent menu information indicating a first one or more play list files and a child menu information of the parent menu indicating a second one or more play list files, the child menu information being selectable only via the parent menu information; and (2) a display unit configured to display the parent menu information initially, and replace the initial display with a display of the child menu information subsequently upon being selected via the parent menu information, wherein the first one or more play list files are directly accessibly via the initial display.

Nonaka merely describes files arranged according to certain genre. However, Nonaka fails to teach or suggest (2) a display unit which displays the parent menu information initially so that the first one or more play list files can be directly selected via the initial display, and replaces the initial display with a display of the child menu information subsequently upon being selected via the parent menu information, wherein

the first one or more play list files are directly accessibly via the initial display. IrfanView also fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

As discussed above, in Proehl the play lists (CD) are not accessible until the final screen (See Fig. 6). That is, Proehl fails to teach or suggest that the first one or more play list files *are directly accessibly via the initial display.* Accordingly, new claim 23 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 further recites that the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are accessible directly at a level of the parent menu information.

As discussed above with respect to claim 21, Nonaka, Proehl and Irfanview fail to teach or suggest the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are accessible directly at a level of the parent menu information.   Accordingly, new claim 24 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 25 recites *inter alia* (1) creating a menu file which includes a plurality of menu information which have a hierarchical structure, wherein the hierarchical structure of the menu information provides a parent menu information indicating a first one or more play list files and a child menu information of the parent menu indicating a second one or more play list files; and (2) the parent menu information includes identifications for the first one or more play list files so that the first one or more play list files are accessible directly via the parent menu information, the child menu information includes identifications for the second one or more play list files so that the second one or more play list files are accessible directly via the child menu information.

As discussed above with respect to claim 22, Nonaka, Proehl and Irfanview fail to teach or suggest that the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are accessible directly at a level of the parent menu information.   Accordingly, new claim 25 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 26 recites *inter alia* (1) reading, from the recording medium, a menu file which includes a plurality of menu information which have a hierarchical structure,

wherein the hierarchical structure of the menu information provides a parent menu information indicating a first one or more play list files and a child menu information of the parent menu information indicating a second one or more play list files, the child menu information being selectable via the parent menu information; (2) displaying one of the plurality of menu information which indicates a respective one or more play list files; wherein, in the displaying step, displaying the parent menu information initially, and replacing the initial display with a display of the child menu information subsequently upon being selected via the parent menu information, wherein the first one or more play list files are directly accessibly via the initial display.

As discussed above with respect to claim 20, Nonaka, Proehl and Irfanview fail to teach or suggest the first one or more play list files are directly accessibly via the initial display. Accordingly, new claim 26 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 further recites that the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are selectable directly at a level of the parent menu information.

As discussed above with respect to claim 21, Nonaka, Proehl and Irfanview fail to teach or suggest that the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are selectable directly at a level of the parent menu information. Accordingly, new claim 27 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 28 recites *inter alia* (1) reading a menu file from a recording medium, wherein the menu file includes a parent menu information and a plurality of child menu information, wherein the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are accessible directly via the parent menu information, the child menu information includes identifications for the respective one or more play list files so that they are accessible directly via the child menu information.
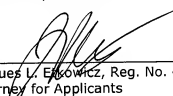
As discussed above with respect to claim 21, Nonaka, Proehl and Irfanview fail to teach or suggest that the parent menu information includes identifications for each of the respective one or more play list files so that they are accessible directly via the parent menu information. Accordingly, new claim 28 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 further recites that the first one or more play list files are directly accessibly via the initial display. As discussed above with respect to claim 20, Nonaka, Proehl and Irfanview fail to teach or suggest the first one or more play list files are directly accessibly via the initial display. Accordingly, new claim 29 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 30-32 depend from claims 25-26 and 28. Accordingly, new claims 30-32 should be allowed for at least the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claims 25-26 and 28.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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